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Purple Line



Glenridge Operations & Maintenance Facility



# PULSE

Your guide to Purple Line news, information and events

MARCH 2020

## WOMEN ARE HARD AT WORK ON THE PURPLE LINE

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Purple Line project team is highlighting women who are committed to delivering this critical transit project.

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) estimates there are about 971,000 women working on construction projects nationwide.



Legislative liaison Ashlie Bagwell, PLTC's Carla Julian, and project advocate Barbara Sanders at a Purple Line Now forum

You might see some of those faces like Carla Julian, Purple Line Transit Constructors' lead public affairs and community outreach officer, and legislative liaison Ashlie Bagwell frequently at public meetings. But there are many more behind the scenes and from varying

backgrounds doing stellar work to help this project come to fruition.

Simone Johnson, Director of Economic Development for the project, likens women working on the project to the late Katherine Johnson, who made invaluable calculations for NASA's space program.

"There are many hidden figures working behind the scenes to help advance the Purple Line project; women in business, construction, engineering, finance, outreach, and safety to name a few," says Johnson. "These women are making a positive impact and difference on the project every day."

[Nesamet Daniel](#) is one of them.



Nesamet Daniel, Purple Line Compliance Officer

Daniel says she always wanted to be a social worker.

"I just envisioned myself doing something meaningful," she says.

Now she gets to put her social skills to work, interacting

with the craftsmen and craftswomen as a compliance officer for the Purple Line.

"It's not what I had planned, but I'm happy to be here," says Daniel. "It definitely requires interpersonal skills to interview the construction workers, the craftsmen."

Her job includes ensuring the project complies with U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Davis-Bacon regulations. The USDOT's DBE Program provides a vehicle for increasing the participation by certified DBE firms in state and local procurements that are funded by USDOT. The Davis-Bacon Act is a 1931 federal law that requires the payment of local prevailing wages on public works projects for laborers and mechanics.

Daniel brings national experience to the 16.2 mile Purple Line light rail project having worked as a compliance officer at both the Charlotte Area Transit System in North Carolina and Metropolitan

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Sign up to receive construction notifications at [purplelinemd.com](http://purplelinemd.com)

“I just envisioned myself doing something meaningful.”

– Nesamet Daniel



Talbot Avenue Bridge support pile



Northwest Branch Bridge - River Road girders installed

# WOMEN ARE HARD AT WORK ON THE PURPLE LINE

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Washington Airports Authority at Regan Airport.

"I like helping people," she says. "I'm happy to do that here on the project. I envision myself continuing to do the type of work that helps people."

Riding public transit in her native Baltimore was never a mindless activity for Nakisha Gaddy. Every ride meant movement.

"I enjoyed watching big trains and trucks move people and cargo."

So much so, she was eager to join the industry.



Nakisha Gaddy at Purple Line headquarters in Riverdale

"There are so many avenues you can take in transit," the Morgan State alumna shares, "so I tried my hand at many things."

Curious by nature, Gaddy eventually learned how to operate a train and other commercial vehicles.

The system safety certification specialist for the Purple Line was drawn to safety after witnessing accidents.

"I wanted to be part of the prevention, and that's when I found occupational health and safety," she says.

Her advice to girls and young women looking to join the industry: "Give it a try... So many women can be very successful in this industry."

## Other not-so hidden figures on the project:



Harley stands on the project's first tracks near New Carrollton

### Tiaja Y. Harley

**Title/Role on Project:** Field Engineer

**Hometown:** Newark, NJ

**Education:** B.S. in Civil Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT); Obtaining M.S. in Construction Management, NJIT.

**Other big projects worked on:**

1. Richmond Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit
2. Cross Bronx Expressway Interchange Rehabilitation Project
3. CHANEL Warehouse Rehabilitation Project

**Thoughts on working on the Purple Line:**

"Working on the Purple Line has been the most challenging and rewarding one so far. As my responsibilities grow, I am constantly learning so much from the laborers to upper management. I appreciate the different impacts that different people have on my work life as they push me to become a better engineer."



Soomro stands at the Silver Spring Transit Center

### Areeba Soomro

**Title/Role on Project:** SSTC Structures Engineer

**Hometown:** Seattle, WA

**Education:** University of Washington, Civil Engineer

**Other big projects worked on:**

East Link Extension Project - To install light rail on a Floating Bridge

**Thoughts on working on the Purple Line:**

"It has been an exciting opportunity to work on this complex mega project. I am currently working on the LRT (Light Rail Transit) aerial bridge and CCT (Capital Crescent Trail) pedestrian bridges in downtown Silver Spring; and we are faced with many challenges but also opportunity for growth and creativity. The best part is working together as a team to overcome these challenges and seeing these superstructures come to life. We have an excellent team out here, and we are learning from each other every day!"





First tracks on Ellin Road



Plymouth Tunnel portals

## Community Advisory Teams

Stay up-to-date on what's going on in your area by reviewing CAT materials online and attending the next round of CAT Meetings.

- **Bethesda/Chevy Chase:**  
Bethesda to Rock Creek Park  
(Bethesda & Connecticut Ave Stations)
- **Greater Lyttonsville/Woodside:** Rock Creek Park to Woodside Station  
(Lyttonsville & Woodside/16th St Stations)
- **Silver Spring:**  
Spring Street to Wayne Avenue to Manchester Place Station (SS Transit Center, SS Library, Dale Drive Stations)
- **Long Branch:**  
Plymouth Tunnel to Carroll Avenue  
(Manchester Place, Long Branch and Piney Branch Road Stations)
- **University Boulevard:**  
Carroll Avenue to Adelphi Road  
(Takoma/Langley Transit Center and Riggs Rd Stations)
- **College Park/M Square:**  
Adelphi Road to River Road/Kenilworth Avenue (Adelphi Rd/West Campus, UM Campus Center, East Campus, College Park and M Square Stations)
- **Riverdale Park:**  
Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale Road, to Beacon Heights Station (Riverdale Park and Beacon Heights Stations)
- **Glenridge/New Carrollton:**  
Veterans Parkway, Ellin Road to New Carrollton (Annapolis Rd/Glenridge and New Carrollton Stations)

# First Purple Line Vehicle Hits the Test Track

## Local Testing Planned for Early 2021.

The first Purple Line vehicle took its initial trip in December 2019, beginning several months of live testing at the project's vehicle assembly plant in Elmira, NY.

Manufactured by CAF, a leading transit manufacturer that has supplied vehicles to Metrorail and other U.S. transit systems, components of the vehicles began arriving in Elmira in September of 2018. CAF's crews painstakingly assembled the vehicle, installing doors, seats, bike racks and other internal components. Each five-section vehicle contains 37.5 miles of wiring – equal to the distance from the Purple Line Bethesda Station to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. On the exterior, workers assembled the axle-and-wheel carriage and the overhead catenary power system. CAF is a subcontractor to Purple Line Transit Partners.

Once materially complete, the vehicle underwent a series of “static” (stationary) tests starting in June 2019 to ensure all systems – drive train, controls, HVAC, doors, public announcement system, etc. – functioned as per design. The vehicle began “dynamic” (in-motion under

real-world conditions) testing in December 2019 on an 1,800-foot-long test track. The second of the 26 total vehicles is undergoing static testing and is planned to begin dynamic testing this year.

In late 2020, the first vehicle will be transported via truck to the Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF), when that massive 170,000-square-foot structure (occupying a footprint equal to two football fields) in Prince George's County is nearly complete, along with one-and-a-half miles of track linking the OMF and the New Carrollton eastern terminus. The vehicle will then undergo an extensive battery of on-track local testing to verify that it and the light rail system function safely and efficiently, in accordance with operational requirements. With test runs occurring alongside Veterans Parkway and Ellin Road, the public

will get its first glimpse of the Purple Line in motion early next year.

Stretching 140 feet, Purple Line cars will be the longest light rail vehicles (LRVs) in the U.S. For context, Metrorail cars are 75 feet in length. Operated as a single vehicle, each five-section Purple Line car will be able to carry a maximum of 431 passengers and will offer eight designated spaces for persons with disabilities and eight bike racks.

The first part of the Purple Line, an approximately five-mile segment from New Carrollton to College Park, is planned to begin carrying passengers by the end of 2022. The remaining 11 miles is slated to open by mid-2023.

“I think people are going to really like it [the cars],” said Charles Lattuca, who oversees the project for MDOT MTA and recently took a test ride on the first Purple Line LRV in Elmira.



MDOT MTA project directors Charles Lattuca and Jeff Ensor took a test ride on the first LRV in December







Support piles for the future bridge over Connecticut Avenue



Support piles for Talbot Avenue Bridge

# Open for Business

As construction of the Purple Line ramps up, the hundreds of Montgomery County and Prince George's County businesses along the 16.2-mile alignment will continue to be open for business.

Understanding the importance of small businesses to the health of the local economy, Purple Line Transit Constructors works diligently with businesses and business organizations to understand the access needs for both customers and deliveries and to provide "Open for Business" signage.

In addition, over the next couple of years in this quarterly newsletter and on our social media platforms, the Purple Line will highlight businesses along the alignment. In this issue, we are focusing on 10 businesses – five in Montgomery County and five in Prince George's County.

## Quarry House Tavern:

Beer. Burgers. Basement.

8401 Georgia Ave, Basement  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[quarryhousetavern.com](http://quarryhousetavern.com)

## El Sapo:

Traditional menu of Cuban & Latin classics

8455 Fenton St  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[elsaporestaurant.com](http://elsaporestaurant.com)

## Buena Vida:

Variety of authentic Mexican food and cocktails

8407 Ramsey Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[buenavidarestaurant.com](http://buenavidarestaurant.com)

## Astro Lab Brewing:

A premier specialty craft brewing operation

8216 Georgia Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[astrolabbrewing.com](http://astrolabbrewing.com)

## Creative Cakes:

Every Day is Cake Day!

8814 Brookville Rd  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[creativecakes.com](http://creativecakes.com)

## University Gas Station

2301 University Blvd East  
Chillum, MD 20782

## Riverdale Park Animal Hospital:

A full-service companion animal hospital

5702 Riverdale Rd  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
[riverdaleparkanimalhospital.com](http://riverdaleparkanimalhospital.com)

## Rinaldi's Riverdale Bowl:

A family-owned 32-lane center

6322 Kenilworth Ave  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
[rinaldilanes.com](http://rinaldilanes.com)

## Patel Brothers:

Indian Marketplace for Spices, Groceries and Puja Items

2074 University Blvd East  
Adelphi, MD 20783

## El Dorado:

Salvadoran Restaurant.

2200 University Blvd East  
Adelphi, MD 20783



For Construction Information:

Phone: 240-424-5325

Email: [outreach@pltlc.com](mailto:outreach@pltlc.com)

General Purple Line Information:

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Español: 443-451-3705

Email: [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com)

[purplelinemd.com](http://purplelinemd.com)

Support piles for the future bridge over the Northwest Branch adjacent to University Blvd



Silver Spring Transit Center work zone

